Amendments to the Specification:

Page 4, lines 5-20, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention pertains to a system for responding to failures involving SPVx connections. The system comprises a primary source node. The system comprises a primary source switch for producing an SPVx connection. The primary source node in communication with the primary source switch. The system comprises a primary destination node. The system comprises a primary destination switch for receiving the SPVx connection. The primary destination node in communication with the primary destination switch. The connection following a primary path between the primary source node and the primary destination node. The system comprises an alternate source switch. The system comprises an alternate source node in communication with the alternate source switch. The alternate source switch re-establishing automatically the connection to the primary destination node along an alternate path when the primary source switch detects a failure of the primary path. The alternate path formed by the alternate source node and the primary destination node only after the primary path experiences a failure.

Page 7, lines 21-24, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

The primary path 21 extends from the primary source node 14 to the primary source switch 16 through the network **[[32]]** 12 along the length 30 of a primary portion 32 to the primary destination switch 18 into the primary destination node 20.

Page 10, line 24 through page 11, line 7, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably, the re-establishing step includes the step of re-establishing the SPVx connection from the primary source switch 16 **[[to]]** through the alternate source switch 28 to the primary destination node 20 through a primary portion 34 of the alternate path 22 of a network 12 when a primary portion 32 of the primary path 21 through the network 12 fails. The re-establishing step preferably includes the step of re-establishing the SPVx connection from the alternate source switch 28 to the primary source switch 16 to the primary destination node 20 through a primary portion 32 of the primary path 21 when the primary source node 14 fails and a primary portion 34 of the alternate path 22 through the network 12 fails. Preferably, there is the step of re-establishing the SPVx connection from the primary source switch 16 to the primary destination node 20 **[[of]]** after the failure has cleared.

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A system for responding to failures of connections in a network. In one embodiment, there is a system for responding to destination failures involving SPVx (switched-permanent virtual circuit) connections includes a primary source node. The system includes a primary source switch for producing an SPVx connection, the primary source node in communication with the primary source switch. The system includes a primary destination node. The system includes a primary destination switch for receiving the SPVx connection, the primary destination node in communication with the primary destination switch, the connection following a primary path between the primary source node and the primary destination node. The system includes an alternate destination node. The primary destination switch redirects automatically the primary connection to the alternate destination node along an alternate path when the primary destination switch detects a failure of the primary path. The alternate path is formed by the primary source node and the alternate destination node only after the primary path experiences a failure. The primary destination switch releases the SPVx connection after there is a fault detected on the primary path. The primary source switch makes multiple attempts to reestablish the SPVx connection with the primary destination node after a failure is detected on the primary path. The primary source switch redirects automatically the SPVx connection to the alternate destination node. The primary source switch re-establishes the SPVx connection to the primary destination node when the failure condition clears. A method for responding to failures of connections in a network.